WEST BANK DEMOLITIONS AND DISPLACEMENT: AN OVERVIEW



JUNE 2021



HIGHLIGHTS

- Sevenfold increase in demolished and seized Palestinian-owned structures, compared with May.
- 113 per cent increase in the targeting of donor-funded structures in the first six months of 2021, compared with equivalent period in 2020.
- Sharp increase in demolished Palestinianowned structures in East Jerusalem.
- 57 per cent of all structures targeted in Area C, have been seized without, or with very short, prior notice, preventing affected people from objecting in advance.

STRUCTURES DEMOLISHED/SEIZED

Monthly Averages



JUNE FIGURES

STRUCTURES TARGETED

East Jerusalem	20			
Area C	71			
Area B	0			
Area A	0			
PEOPLE IMPACTED				
Displaced 108				

ASSISTANCE DEMOLISHED/ SEIZED IN 2021

Affected

2,684



OVERVIEW

In June, the Israeli authorities demolished, forced people to demolish, or seized 91 Palestinian-owned structures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This resulted in the displacement of 108 people, including 62 children, and otherwise affected the livelihoods, or access to services, of nearly 2,700 others. All the structures were located in Area C or East Jerusalem, and were targeted for lacking building permits, which are nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain.

The number of structures demolished or seized in June is the highest this year, surpassed only by February (153), with a sevenfold increase, or 600 per cent, compared with May (13).

Twenty of the structures demolished or seized had been provided as humanitarian aid. In addition, an EU-funded school in Um Qussa (Hebron), at a value of over 14,000 euros, received a stop-work order, while another three donor-funded residential structures received a notice to submit an objection to previously issued demolition orders.

Thirty-two of the structures demolished or seized in June, or 35 per cent, were seized without, or with very short, prior notice. On 7 June, in Al Mu'arrajat Bedouin community (Ramallah) the Israeli authorities seized 13 structures, including five donor-funded, for lacking Israeli-issued building permits, leaving 24 people, including 16 children displaced. Another five structures, including one donorfunded, were seized in Dar Fazaa (Ramallah), displacing 16 people, including nine children.

So far in 2021, 212 structures, or 57 per cent of all structures targeted in Area C, have been seized without, or with very short, prior notice, preventing affected people from objecting in advance.

On two separate occasions in the Massafer Yatta area (South Hebron Hills), the Israeli authorities demolished three main roads connecting the surrounding villages, in addition to a water network supplying water to multiple communities. The

incidents affected some 2,300 people, including 1,140 children and left the communities without water for three and seven days, respectively.

Also, in Area C, in Halhul (Hebron) and Jinsafut (Qalqiliya), the Israeli authorities demolished a home and a livelihood structure on the basis of Military Order 1797, which provides only a 96-hour notice and very limited grounds for legally challenging a demolition. The incidents left 14 people, including seven children displaced.

In East Jerusalem, the Israeli authorities demolished or forced people to demolish 20 structures. The month of June saw an increase in structures demolished in East Jerusalem by 44 per cent, compared with the previous five months, to a total of 65 structures since the beginning of 2021. Eleven of the structures, or 55 per cent, were demolished by the owners following the issuance of a demolition order. In Jabal al Mukkabir, owners were forced to demolish seven structures following the issuance of such orders, displacing five people, including three children, and affecting the livelihoods of another 27 people, including 17 children.

So far in 2021, the proportion of structures demolished by their owners in East Jerusalem, following the issuance of demolition orders, reached 45 per cent, up from an average of 27 per cent in the previous five years. This is attributed to new Israeli legislation, which limits the authority of Israeli courts to intervene and enables the Jerusalem Municipality to exert pressure on families to demolish their properties themselves.

In late February 2021, the Jerusalem Municipality reactivated demolition orders against 68 Palestinian structures, mainly residential, in the Al Bustan area, in the Silwan neighbourhood of East Jerusalem, which would lead to the displacement of up to 1,500 Palestinians. The Local Affairs Court ruled for a six-month deferral for 52 of these structures, until 15 August. Out of the 16 structures subject to impending demolitions, on 29 June, a livelihood structure was demolished. During the incident, Israeli forces blocked all entrances to the area. In clashes that followed, more than 13 Palestinians were injured and at least four were arrested, including the owner of the demolished livelihood structure.

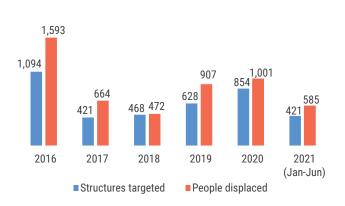
WEST BANK DEMOLITIONS / SEIZURES

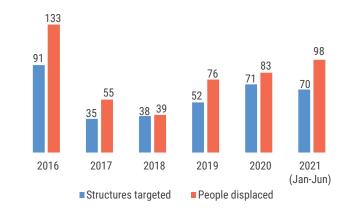
	Structures	People o	People displaced*		People Affected**	
	demolished	All	Children	All	Children	
East Jerusalem	20	12	6	99	51	
Area C	71	96	56	2,585	1,295	
TOTAL	91	108	62	2,684	1,346	

^{*} Includes all people who had a structure used as their habitual place of residence demolished.

TOTAL STRUCTURES TARGETED AND PEOPLE DISPLACED

MONTHLY AVERAGES OF STRUCTURES TARGETED AND PEOPLE DISPLACED





^{**} Includes all people who had any of their property, other than their residence, demolished. Displaced and affected are mutually exclusive categories, i.e. people counted under the former are not included in the latter.

DEMOLITION/SEIZURE OF DONOR-FUNDED AID STRUCTURES JUNE 2021

Date	Community	Governorate	Type of structure	Number of structures	Type of incident	Estimated cost in Euros
30 June	Khirbet Zanuta	Hebron	Residential structures	2 Seizure		3,618
28 June	Al Baqa'a	Hebron	Metal storage shed	1	Seizure	2,233
23 June	Massafer Yatta	Hebron	Rainwater drainiage culvert	· ·		N/A
21 June	Al Muntar	Jerusalem	Residential structure	1	Seizure	1,751
13 June	Dar Fazaa	Ramallah	Solar panel system	1	Seizure	4,013
10 June	Azz'ayyem Bedouin	Jerusalem	Agricultural structure	1	Demolition	N/A
9 June	Massafer Yatta	Hebron	Roads	2	Demolition	N/A
8 June	Bardala	Tubas	Water ponds, agricultural road	3	Demolition (M01797)	N/A
7 June	Al Mu'arrajat Centre	Ramallah	Residential structure, solar panel systems, mobile steel water tank*	5	Seizure	10,995
2 June	Wadi Fukin	Bethlehem	Agricultural water cistern, Stone walls	2	Demolition	4,715
1 June	As Samu'	Hebron	Residential structure	1	Seizure	751
Total				20		28,075

DEMOLITION/STOP-WORK ORDERS AFFECTING DONOR-FUNDED AID STRUCTURES JUNE 2021

Date	Community	Governorate	Type of structure	Number of structures	Type of incident	Estimated cost in Euros
29 June	Um Qussa	Hebron	School	1	Stop-work order	14,118
17 June	A Seefer	Hebron	Residential structures	3	Notice to submit objection to previous demolition orders	13,969
Total				4		28,087

TARGETED DONOR-FUNDED AID STRUCTURES

